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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1996 No. 3263**

**The Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996**

**PART IV**

**ARRANGEMENTS WITH VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

**16.**—(1) Local authorities may individually or jointly enter into arrangements with one or more voluntary organisations in relation to children looked after by the local authorities under Parts II and III of these Regulations for the voluntary organisations to discharge on their behalf their duties in relation to fostering under those Parts of these Regulations.

(2) Local authorities shall not make arrangements under this regulation unless—

(a) they are satisfied—

(i) as to the capacity of the voluntary organisations to discharge duties on their behalf;  
and

(ii) that those arrangements are the most suitable way for those duties to be discharged;  
and

(b) they enter into a written agreement with the voluntary organisations about the arrangements, providing for consultation and for exchange of information and reports between the authority and the voluntary organisations.

(3) A voluntary organisation may not place a child outside the British Islands<sup>(1)</sup>.

(4) Local authorities shall review any arrangements made under paragraph (1), and any agreement under paragraph (2)(b), at intervals of not more than 12 months.

**Circumstances necessitating visits by local authorities**

**17.**—(1) Every local authority shall arrange for one of their officers to visit every child who is accommodated with a foster carer on their behalf by a voluntary organisation in any of the following circumstances and within the periods specified—

(a) where the voluntary organisation which made the placement with the foster carer make representations to the local authority that there are circumstances relating to the child which require a visit, within 14 days of the receipt of the representations;

(b) where the local authority are informed that the welfare of the child may not be being safeguarded or promoted, as soon as reasonably practicable but in any event within 7 days of being informed.

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(1) “British Islands” are defined in the Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30) as meaning the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.